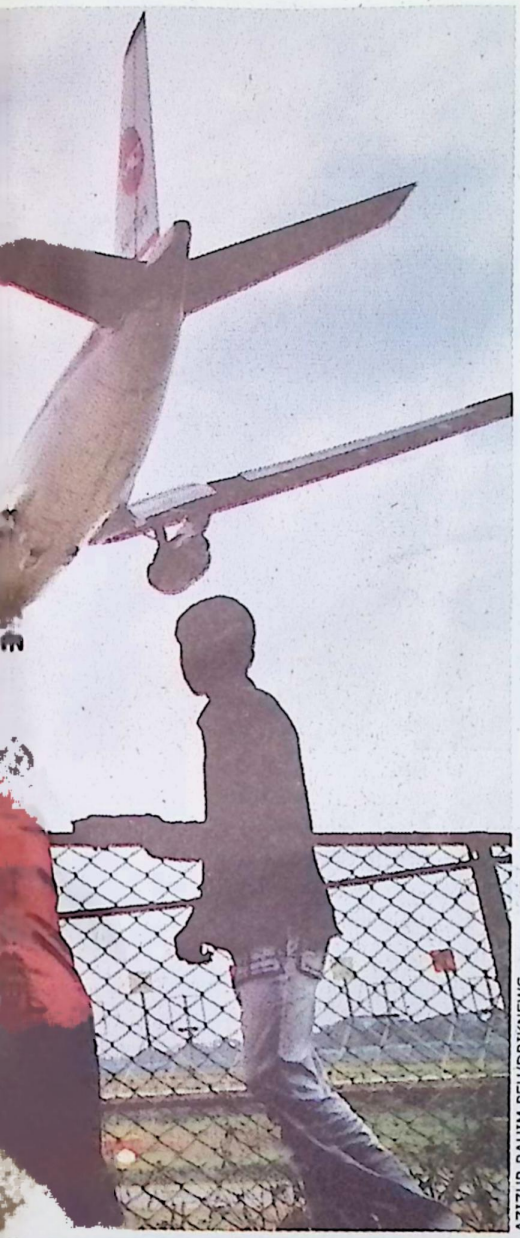


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desh would also curtail dependency on conditional foreign funds and would enhance the policy sovereignty.

Though remittance inflow to Bangladesh is increasing and relatively stable compared with world remittance flow, it is still in a very risky state: they are highly country specific and job category specific.

In 2006, over 66% of our remittances came from the Middle East, especially from KSA (35%). From 1976 to 2007, more than 84% of our total labourers migrated to the Middle East, especially in KSA (45%).

As a result, any economic or political crisis in the Middle East or unfavourable inter-country relationship will destructively reduce the remittance inflow in Bangladesh. When people migrate only in a specific job sector, any economic movement of this sector will reduce remittance drastically. Also, within a very short period, few specific countries' specific job sectors will not require more labour. As a result, Bangladesh needs to diversify its migration to other job sectors.

The skilled and highly salaried professionals can generate huge remittances, but they are the least migrating group from Bangladesh.

From 1976 to 2007, the category breakdown was: unskilled: 51%, skilled: 30%, semi-skilled: 16% , and professional: 3%.

In 2007, this record is far worse: unskilled: 58%, skilled: 20%, semi-skilled: 22%, and professional: 0%. If Bangladesh is able to send more skilled and professional labour, her remittance inflow would increase at a significant rate.

Only a handful of labourers migrate from Bangladesh through the government; the rest migrate through individuals or recruitment agencies.

From 1976 to 2007, the total labour migration was as follows: individual: 60%, recruiting agent: 39%, and government channel: 1%.

In 2007, total labour migrated through individual: 56%, recruiting agent: 44%, and government channel: 0%.

The government is a more powerful player than individual persons or recruitment agencies in terms of negotiating for job salaries and opportunities. When people migrate individually or through recruiting agencies, they may not negotiate properly with the actual authority or may not be able to get proper jobs. Sometimes, people also face fraudulent activities. Due to this, although many people are migrating, remittance inflow is low in comparison to the wage earners from abroad. In such a situation, if the government increases the rate of labour migration through government channel, it will accelerate the remittance inflow in a sustainable way.

In the last few years, many skilled labourers started to migrate permanently from Bangladesh to developed countries. Despite these developments, Bangladesh government has not prepared a proper migration policy. Scholars already raised the issue of brain drain due to skilled labour migration to developed countries. As a labour surplus country, Bangladesh can easily remove negative effects of brain drain by providing necessary training to its vast unskilled surplus labour.

As a result, any economic or political crisis in the Middle East or unfavourable inter-country relationship will destructively reduce the remittance inflow in Bangladesh.

At the same time, there is no social security system or social insurance for remitters and no provision for voting at the time of national elections. The roles of nationalised commercial banks (NCBs) are gradually decreasing while private banks are emerging as major players in channeling remittances. There are not enough facilities to transfer remittance in Bangladesh from different countries. At